

# South Dakota National Guard

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September 1, 2015

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **National Guard engineers to conduct Battle of the Blades**

SPEARFISH, S.D. – Members of the 842nd Engineer Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, will host the 10th Battle of the Blades/Slashing Steel 2015 open house from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Spearfish city rubble site, north of Spearfish on Highway 85.

The public is encourage to attend.

The Battle of the Blades is a multi-faceted challenge where junior heavy-equipment operators can learn specific operation techniques for each piece of equipment. This event will consist of senior operators coaching junior operators through a series of courses designed to challenge the team's operation and communication skills.

The heavy equipment involved in this competition includes the bulldozer, scraper, road grader, dump truck, tractor/trailer and excavator.

Senior operators also learn how to verbally convey their intentions instead of getting on the equipment and demonstrating. The company leadership also evaluates the capabilities of their operators by acting as judges for the events. Each course is designed to be achievable, yet remain challenging at the same time.

A pre-operation equipment inspection is conducted by the operator on each piece of equipment prior to the event. All equipment involved has been used by the 842nd in blizzards, floods and fires in South Dakota, as well as overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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**INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTE:** If rain is received on Friday, Sept. 11, the event will not be held.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Please contact Sgt. 1st Class Blaine Anderson at (605) 642-6121, (605) 737-7310 or Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail [ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil)